

Fabian, and, instead, launch out on a great propaganda campaign—hundreds of centres, thousands, nay millions, of members ? This trumpet blast reverberated thrillingly enough in the ears of many Fabian members who found Mr Wells' personality and his reputation very exciting, and were struck by his prophetic flair. When it came to translating the fine ideas of his plan into action, it proved, tiresomely enough, that the campaign required funds, which did not exist; a membership, which did not exist; and a detailed scheme of work, which did not exist. Strong in phrases, Mr Wells was weak in facts.

The details of the controversy within the Society are not, now, of interest to anybody in the upshot, the struggle became one of personalities, and, in effect, a duel between Shaw and Wells. Shaw rather than Webb was the protagonist of the official view, the exponent of the practical against the purely theoretical. When, at the final decisive meeting, Shaw declared that H G Wells' motion amounted, as he had himself stated, to a vote of want of confidence, the result was certain. Defeated on his general reform plan, Wells then took up a new line. The Suffrage agitation was surging round them. New Morals and New Women were filling columns of the press, daily the Socialists ought, he urged, to take a stand about it all above all about the Family, and about Motherhood. The trouble was that "exactly what he proposed," says Mr Pease, "was never clear." It was on his vagueness that the "old gang" disagreed with him. So soon as he pressed for

something
concrete, he got his way Thus when he
proclaimed that
the equality of women ought to go into the
Basis, he found
powerful allies Mrs Pember Reeves got on to
the war-
path she was supported by no less a person
than Mrs
Webb, who took this opportunity of announcing
her con-
version to the views she had once opposed
Equality was
therefore earned What Mr Wells wanted,
however, was